

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on November 17 I was unavoidably detained in my district and was not able to vote on rollcall votes numbered 620, 621, 622, and 623. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 620, "aye" on rollcall 621, "aye" on rollcall 622, and "aye" on rollcall 623.

ACKNOWLEDGING MR. DENNIS DOUGHERTY, CEO OF VISUAL ELECTRONICS, LTD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Dennis Dougherty, the CEO of Visual Electronics, Ltd. Dennis has not only been a leading entrepreneur in Colorado, he is also an active leader of the Human Rights Campaign and an outspoken proponent of civil rights. Still a Republican, despite my entreaties to the contrary, Dennis is living proof that one can be a hard-driving and successful businessman and also contribute to causes that are beyond self-interest and the so-called "bottom line."

A Colorado newspaper recently published a profile on Dennis Dougherty and included some highlights of his career in the ever-changing high technology sector. I would like to share a few items that describe Dennis and his contributions to both the private and public sectors:

As the hands-on director of a 25 year old customer service-oriented company, Dougherty has weathered tough economic times by stressing attention to client satisfaction. Visual Electronics marketing manager, Kim Johnson, said, "If you make a client happy, they're going to come back to you."

Dennis was raised in Omaha, Nebraska and served in Vietnam after being drafted by the Army. Dennis served honorably and in a time and place where being an "out gay person" was unheard of and dangerous.

Through 12 hour work days and a continuing commitment to meet the needs of his customers, Dennis built a multi-million dollar company providing ACD monitoring systems for call centers, 911 emergency operations, help desks and tech support lines. Visual Electronics is, in its own way, a prime example of the growth potential in technology services.

Dougherty has also been a regional and national philanthropist, supporting human rights work, aimed at establishing equal rights for gays and lesbians. Dennis is also a major supporter of the Colorado AIDS Project and the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado.

Coloradans are proud of Dennis Dougherty and the contribution he and his company have made to our state. Through his attention to detail, his strong people skills, his sales acumen and his outstanding commitment to his work colleagues, Dennis and Visual Electronics, Ltd. are valuable members of our business community and I am proud to recognize him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed four votes in the House of Representatives on November 17, 2003. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Passage of S.J. Res. 22, Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Passage of S.J. Res. 18, Commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Passage of H. Con. Res. 299, Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America, and for other purposes. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

On the Motion regarding the Hour of Meeting. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON PHILIP WATTERS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave young man from my home district, who selflessly gave his life trying to save a friend.

On June 25, 2003, Brandon Philip Watters was at Sequoia National Park with his brother, Garett, and friends. They were swimming at "the cliffs," along the Kaweah River. Brandon was enjoying a well-deserved summer break from pre-med courses at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Suddenly, Brandon noticed that his friend, Renne Suddeth, was caught in the rapids. Without thought to his own safety, he immediately dove in the water, struggling against the roiling waters. Marshaling every bit of his strength, he was able to get his nearly drowned friend to safety.

Just as Garett pulled Renne from the river, Brandon was pulled underneath the turbulent water by strong currents. Recognizing the extreme peril of diving in after Brandon, who was the strongest swimmer among them, the others kept each other from jumping in after him.

Brandon's courageous act cost him his life. The water was so treacherous that well-trained, experienced divers noted that it hindered their recovery efforts for more than two hours.

Brandon was undoubtedly aware of the danger. We know that he would make the same decision were he given that choice again. His

sacrifice is a testimony to his personal character.

That was even evident as hundreds of his friends flocked to St. Mary's Church to honor his memory. His wit, intelligence, self-effacing modesty, generosity and kindness have touched many people.

I urge my colleagues to join me by extending their sympathies and deepest gratitude to the family of Brandon Watters for his life and sacrifice. He will be missed.

GAP IN HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a serious gap in our homeland security strategy and to encourage my colleagues to work with me to move expeditiously and cost effectively to remedy this problem. Currently, the Coast Guard only employs eight armed air assets that are equipped to use force to protect our entire port and waterway network and to enforce our nation's drug laws. This is unacceptable. This fleet is obviously much too small to provide coverage to the almost 90,000 miles of U.S. coastline and hundreds of ports and waterways. In light of this serious vulnerability, it is my strong belief that the Coast Guard should move quickly to initiate a competition for a new multi-mission armed cutter helicopter. We need more assets now and should not stand idle while millions of Americans who live along our coastlines remain vulnerable. This being said, I completely support the mandate of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee contained in H.R. 2443 that directs the Coast Guard to expand its fleet of armed Sting Ray helicopters. The plan to acquire additional HITRON Sting Ray helicopters through a flexible lease arrangement is a common sense interim solution until a new state-of-the-art multi-purpose helicopter can be deployed. In the aftermath of 9-11, the Sting Ray fleet suddenly has a key role on the front lines of both America's war on drugs and terrorism.

On September 15, 2003, Coast Guard Subcommittee Chairman LoBiondo and Ranking Member Filner wrote the leadership of the Appropriations Committee to emphasize the priority our Coast Guard Subcommittee is giving to the establishment of a an expanded fleet of MH-68A armed helicopters. Recognizing the Coast Guard is confronting a serious challenge in trying to balance its limited resources to meet both its humanitarian missions and its new homeland security responsibilities, it is my belief that the only way to effectively address this problem is to increase the number of assets tasked to perform these kinds of operations and to ensure that these assets have prioritized missions. The Coast Guard simply does not have enough assets to perform all their traditional missions plus all their new responsibilities. As a result, the Coast Guard should acquire additional assets for the airborne use of force mission.

I am particularly alarmed over reports out of the Coast Guard that there is a plan to rebuild their existing 20 year old HH-65 fleet rather than replace it through a competitive process. This is a classic case of being penny wise and

dollar foolish and it defies common logic in this post-9–11 environment. Instead of accurately identifying the new mission and then deciding on the best possible helicopter to carry it out, it is an example of shrinking the mission to fit the assets on hand. The Department of Homeland Security requires a new and larger state-of-the-art cutter-deployed helicopter to meet the growing challenge. Rebuilding a twenty year old helicopter is simply not acceptable. The Coast Guard should move quickly to initiate a competition to procure a modern technology Multi-Mission Cutter Helicopter and related Airborne Use of Force assets that can also be used by Customs, Secret Service and the Border Patrol. Mr. Speaker, as you and others in this body know, I am a fiscal conservative who is always conscious of how we in Washington spend taxpayer dollars. I have also always been a strong advocate for the Coast Guard and believe that this branch of our military service is a big bang for the taxpayer buck. Given the 100 percent success of the current HITRON fleet, I believe this would be one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to address the enormous vulnerabilities that continue to exist along our nation's coastlines and in our ports and waterways.

APPLAUD AMERICA'S LOCAL
BROADCAST STATIONS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud America's local broadcast stations for a program they recently launched to assist the families of our men and women in uniform who are fighting the war on terrorism abroad.

As of today, there are more than 140,000 active-duty and reserve personnel serving our great Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.

I have the privilege of representing the soldiers stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, the 5th Special Forces Group, and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. The men and women of these premier Army units have been deployed for extensive periods of time, often with little or no break between deployments.

For the families left behind, these extended separations can be trying not only emotionally, but financially as well. In many cases, the primary "bread winner" is the person sent overseas, leaving wives and children to cope with unexpected expenses.

The National Association of Broadcasters and its 6,000 radio station and 1,000 television station members recently partnered with the Armed Forces Relief Trust (AFRT) to help raise funds for those families that are facing financial challenges. The AFRT solicits contributions and then disburses interest-free loans and grants to family members of deployed personnel who are in need. To support this effort, the broadcasters produced and are voluntarily airing Public Service Announcements, so that AFRT can assist even more families in need.

The AFRT provides important services. They may provide assistance so a soldier can

fly home to attend their father's funeral. The services may include a special reading program for a sailor's daughter. They may assist with special medical attention for a pilot's spouse, or college tuition for a Marine's child.

Mr. Speaker, our fighting men and women and their families are sacrificing a great deal on our behalf. It is the duty of all Americans to provide comfort and assistance in any way they can.

I extend a special thanks to the radio and television station owners who are calling attention to this important cause. They are providing an important public service and I commend them for their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, 2003, I was unable to record my vote on three resolutions under suspension of the rules, and one motion changing the hour of meeting. My unavoidable absence was due to the fact that I was hosting an important forum on Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin with federal and state leaders.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted the following:

Roll call #620: Yes, Roll call #621: Yes, Roll call #622: Yes, Roll call #623: Yes.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF SIMHA LAINER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SHERMAN and I rise today to pay tribute to our good friend, Simha Lainer who will be celebrating his 100th birthday at a dinner and reception hosted by the New Community Jewish High School on Sunday, December 14, 2003. Simha has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in Los Angeles for many years, and he continues to play an active role in the promotion of Jewish education and many other worthy causes.

Simha was born in the Ukraine. As a young man, he spent time in the Middle East, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1951. Although he worked in the textile industry, and later in real estate, his passion has always been education.

Simha, along with his wife Sara (z"l) and his three remarkable sons Mark, Nahum and Luis, who in their own right have supported so many worthy causes, have pioneered efforts to make a Jewish education available to as many children as possible. In 1989, Simha and his family established the Simha and Sara Lainer Fund for Jewish Education. As a result of this fund, the Los Angeles Bureau of Jewish Education has provided financial aid to many students that otherwise would have been unable to study the Torah. The fund has also provided Simha and his family an opportunity to honor religious schoolteachers and early

childhood educators for their hard work and dedication.

Simha has also provided critical leadership to promote upper levels of Jewish education. For example, he served on the Board of Directors at the University of Judaism, the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Foundation, and the Board of the West Coast Friends of Bar Ilan University. Simha is also the founder of the Western Region of American Friends of the Hebrew University.

In addition to his many educational achievements here in the United States, Simha has also displayed an unwavering commitment to the establishment and maintenance of Israeli institutions of education. Thanks to his leadership and vision, thousands of Israeli and American children will be prepared to lead productive lives and promote religious and cultural tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Simha for all of his outstanding contributions and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER COUNTY
CHAPTER 377 OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FED-
ERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and all of its members on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), an organization of former workers of the United States government, was established in 1921 and has grown to over 420,000 members—each of whom is affiliated with one of 1,591 chapters nationwide. They perform an advocacy role at the national level in promoting and protecting the annuity and health insurance rights of all former employees. It also provides significant services to all United States government retirees by aiding them in understanding and utilizing their individual rights under current directives.

Much like other national advocacy groups, NARFE is separated into state organizations which are further subdivided into a number of local chapters based on population and geography. In Pennsylvania, there is a statewide federation of approximately 22,000 members who likewise are affiliated with Chester County Chapter 377 or one of the 56 other local chapters.

The Chester County Chapter 377 of NARFE encompasses the entire county and has a membership of over 400 retirees. The Chapter holds ten meetings a year hosting outside speakers on a variety of issues important to its members. I am honored to be speaking at their 50th Anniversary luncheon on December 2, 2003. In addition to the meetings, NARFE members are informed on retirement issues through a national monthly magazine and from periodic chapter newsletters.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal